

REMARKS

In response to Examiner's Objections we offer the following. Claim 22 has been amended to reflect the proper claim dependency, Claim 3. Claim 21 has been amended so that its claim language is consistent with the claim language of Claims 22-24.

In response to Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 we offer the following. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the indefinite 'PTF' language and include a more definite 'high temperature base polymer' language to which there is proper antecedent basis in the claim. Claims 10 and 20 have been amended to depend from the proper preceding claim, Claim 6.

In response to Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 we offer the following amendments and arguments. Claim 1 has been amended to claim the range of from about 55 to 100 weight percent PFA content in the high temperature bonding layer. Example 1 of Effenberger '748 does not disclose a high temperature bonding layer made purely of PFA, nor does the reference disclose a high temperature bonding layer comprising more than 50 weight percent PFA. Thus, a high temperature bonding layer comprising 100 weight percent, or more than 50 weight percent PFA, is novel with respect to '748. From 55 to 100 weight percent PFA is supported by the specification of the present application.

Regarding the Claims of the present invention directed towards the use of the laminate 'for an electronic circuit'; per Examiner's remarks those claims (Claims 16-19) have been canceled.

In response to Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 we offer the following arguments. Claims 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, 18, 19, 23, and 24 contain the limitation of employing (through their dependency on amended Claim 1) a novel 'PFA-based' high temperature bonding layer comprising from at least 55 to 100 weight percent PFA. As such, the dependent claims listed above are novel over Effenberger '748, and non-obvious for the below stated reasons.

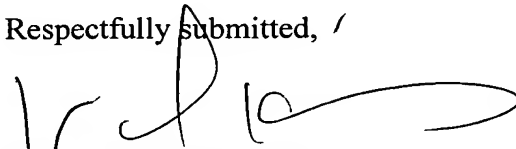
Effenberger '748 does not teach, nor does the reference disclose, the use of an adhesive layer comprising greater than 50 weight percent PFA. Rather, '748 teaches a practitioner to use an adhesive layer mainly comprised of PTFE. The reference teaches at col. 4 lines 21-26 that, "While PTFE may be employed alone (*emphasis added*) as the adhesive layer material, it is more desirable *from a processing point of view* to utilize a combination of PTFE and a thermally compatible TFE copolymer . . . ". Thus, '748 teaches that the adhesive

layer of '748 is mainly derived from PTFE copolymer, not PFA copolymer, and may optionally contain other compatible copolymer to ease processing constraints. The reference does not mention improving scrape abrasion resistance nor does it mention improving cut-through resistance (see page 2, lines 24-25, of the present application). And while PFA is perhaps mentioned in the reference, the reference teaches (at col. 5, lines 1-8) "For these reasons, it is *preferable to maximize the PTFE content* in such composites." As such, the electrical wire insulation system of Effenberger '748 is based on the use of a 'PTFE-based' adhesive layer, optionally comprising up to about 50 weight percent of a compatible TFE (of which includes the option of using some amount of PFA).

Contrarily, the present invention is based on an adhesive layer comprising a more superior, more scrape abrasion resistant, PFA-based copolymer adhesive layer which is necessary to the invention, that layer optionally comprising other fluoropolymers in an amount range from 45 weight percent or less.

In conclusion and in consideration of these arguments, applicants believe that the Claims are now in a state of allowance. Since all currently pending claims having been shown to be in a condition for allowance, an office action in accordance therewith is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted, /



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